

Message Text

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51
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 NEAE-00 EUR-25 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CCO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /144 W

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P R 071456Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5538

USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

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USIA FOR IOR/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. DECEMBER 7 PRESS BANNERS CONTINUED TENSION ON SUEZ AND GOLAN FRONTS AND SECRETARY'S NEWS CONFERENCE. MOST BANNERS ON NEWS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT REMARKS ON POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SOVIET-AMERICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES TO AREA AND UNLIKELYHOOD OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN INITIAL STAGES OF PEACE CONFERENCE. BANNERS AND ACCOMPANYING STORIES SUMMARIZING NEWS CONFERENCE ARE GENERALLY BALANCED, ALTHOUGH LEFTIST PRO-COMMANDO AL-MUHARRIR OUTDOES ITSELF BY BANNERING: "KISSINGER THREATENS TO LAND SOVIET-AMERICAN FORCES IN MEDEAST."

2. SPECULATION ON LEBANESE PORTION OF SECRETARY'S TRIP

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CONTINUES, AND CONFUSION REIGNS SUPREME, ESPECIALLY WITH

REGARD TO SCHEDULE. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR REPORTS THAT "KISSINGER IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN BEIRUT AT 10 A.M. SUNDAY FROM DAMASCUS ABOARD A PRIVATE PLANE.... WORKING SESSION WILL BE HELD AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.... AFTER SESSION, CONFEREES WILL HAVE LUNCH AT PALACE.... KISSINGER WILL LEAVE BEIRUT FOR ISRAEL AT 4 P.M. SAME DAY." LEADING INDEPENDENT FRENCH L'ORIENT-LE JOUR MEANWHILE REPORTS THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL LAST NINE HOURS (FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.) AND WILL INCLUDE TWO WORKING SESSIONS, LUNCH AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, AND SIGHTSEEING.

3. MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT COUNTERS ON IMPLICATIONS FOR FREEDOM OF PRESS OF AN-NAHAR PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUENI'S ARREST. SOME PAPERS DO, HOWEVER, COMMENT ALSO ON SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND COMING TRIP.

4. ON PRESS CONFERENCE, RIGHTIST AL-JARIDA WRITES: "ONE UNDERSTANDS FROM KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS... THAT AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICA AND RUSSIA IS TOO STRONG FOR ANY ARAB OR ISRAELI MINE TO DESTROY."

5. ON COMING TRIP, CLOVIS MAKSOUD WRITES IN AN-NAHAR: "U.S. HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS COMMITMENTS TO EGYPT AND SYRIA, SINCE IT HAS NOT EXERCISED PRESSURE EXPECTED OF IT TO MAKE ISRAEL ADHERE TO EVERY ARTICLE OF CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION BEFORE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE IN CONVENED.... IF KISSINGER BELIEVES THAT HIS SECOND TRIP WILL LEAD TO RESULTS THAT SHOULD HAVE COME ABOUT ON HEELS OF FIRST TRIP, WE ARE GOING TO SEE REPEATED VISITS BY PERIPATETIC AMERICAN SECRETARY. IN OTHER WORDS, ARABS WITH LINKS TO WEST HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT U.S. HAD ABILITY TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO OBEY U.N. RESOLUTIONS... BUT THAT IT LACKED WILL. KISSINGER'S LAST TRIP WAS ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE ARABS THAT HE HAD COME TO MAKE AMERICA'S WILL IN THIS RESPECT CRYSTAL CLEAR. BUT ISRAEL'S DEVOTION TO TRICKERY AND DISAPPEARANCE OF AMERICAN PRESTIGE IN THIS RESPECT MEAN EITHER THAT U.S. HAS, BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S DOMESTIC CRISIS, LOST ITS ABILITY JUST AT ITS WILL TO USE THIS ABILITY WAS BECOMING CLEAR OR THAT U.S. IS CONTINUING ITS COLLUSION WITH ISRAEL...." BUFFUM UNCLASSIFIED

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